

March 2021

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March is Disability Awareness Month

Students have been exposed to various learning opportunities about disabilities this month. As we conclude the month, we will have a week of special "Spirit Days".

Monday – March 22nd
"Be a team player!"

Wear your favorite team

Tuesday – March 23rd
"My future is bright!"

Wear bright colors or tie dye

Wednesday – March 24th
"Take a deep breath and relax!"

Wear your sweats

Thursday – March 25th
"Show your support!"

Wear blue

Friday – March 26th
"We're all in this together!"

Wear disability awareness apparel or Pirate spirit wear/purple

John Wood Elementary School
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Merrillville, Indiana 46410
(219) 650-5305
www.mvsc.k12.in.us/wood

The John Wood Parent Newsletter



Principal Petralia's Page

Dear Families,

It looks like spring may be upon us! Thank goodness! Our students need to play outside in the fresh air! When the temperature is above 15 degrees and there is no rain or snow, students go out to play at recess time. Please take the temperature into consideration when getting ready for the day. Coats are still needed with hats, and gloves/mittens.

The end of the second trimester was on March 5th. Paper report cards will not be sent home but they can be accessed on Skyward. If you need help accessing your child's grades, please call our office for assistance.

There's no time like spring time to review some of our procedures:

- Please note that our doors (Door F) do not open for car riders until 7:35. They close at 7:55. Please do not drop your child off before 7:35. We do not have staff available to watch your child, leaving them unattended outside. If your child is late and arrives after 7:55, please pull around to our front door (Door A). An adult MUST accompany them into the building.
- Please have your ID ready if you are picking up your child.
- Students who are car riders will be picked up in the East parking lot. Make sure to have your numbered sign in plain view. Do not get out of your vehicle but please move up as the cars begin to leave. Please be patient as some parents assist their children with seat belts when they get in the car. If you do not have your numbered sign, please park and come into the building to pick your child up. You will need to show your ID.

Thank you for helping us do our best to keep your child(ren) safe!

Good Citizens February 2021

ECD

Ayla Steel –
Miss McCorkle (Miss Kati)
Jaiden Grady –
Mrs. Straley (Miss Kim)

Multi-Grade

Noah Talton – Ms. Hannigan
Mikal White – Mrs. Spoolstra
Levi Porras – Mrs. Gates

Kindergarten

Aubree Fontes – Mrs. Anderson
Marina Arellano – Mrs. Scott
Micah Watson – Mrs. Shalla

1st Grade

Karter Josway – Mrs. Matthews
Ivan Stinson – Mrs. Pace
Mason Boord – Miss Welsh

2nd Grade

Brody Finnearty – Mrs. Carney
Stella Finnearty – Ms. Foster
Jayden Carr – Mrs. Marshall

3rd Grade

Gabriella Rusk – Mrs. Busch
Devontah Johnson – Mrs. Cseke
Lorenzo Alvarez – Mrs. Mahy

4th Grade

Adam Koszyk – Miss Jongsma
Miranda Cabrera –
Miss Vlassopoulos

February Attendance

As we continue to encourage good attendance, we would like to recognize the class who had the best attendance during the month of February. Mrs. Thanos' 4th grade class had 98.96% attendance! They have the honor of keeping the "Beary" attendance award in their room for this month!

Girls on the Run

We are excited to announce that registration for the spring session of Girls on the Run is now open.

Girls on the Run is an 8-week positive youth development program available to our 3rd and 4th grade girls. Girls have fun, make friends, increase their physical activity, and learn important lessons to last a lifetime. At the end of the 8-week program, the girls will participate in a "K" Your Way Event.

Registration is online at www.gotrofnwi.org until March 21st. Girls will meet after school on Mondays and Wednesdays until 3:45.

This program has been adapted to ensure physical distancing and safety.

Dress Code Reminder

As we begin to have warm days, we are all excited to shed our coats and start wearing warm-weather clothing after the long and cold winter. However, please remember that we have a dress code at John Wood.

The dress code includes no shorts or skirts shorter than fingertip length, no sheer or see-through clothing, no "spaghetti strap" or strapless tops, and no bare midriffs. Also, we ask that the children do not wear flip-flops. If a child is wearing flip-flops, he/she will go outside for fresh air, but will not be allowed on the playground equipment.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

3rd Grade Honor Roll 2nd Trimester

A Honor Roll

Kaylee Shooltz

A/B Honor Roll

Amy Avila
Antoni Babel
Brettan Heath
Jaylon King
Isabella Lagunas
Bailey Larson
Tori Muiser
Liam Parker
Gabriella Rusk
Atlas Theodorakos

4th Grade Honor Roll 2nd Trimester

A Honor Roll

Jian Peng Zheng

A/B Honor Roll

Isabella Balbosa
Miranda Cabrera
Adrian Hernandez
Dreamm Mable
Vittoria Madrigal
Alina Magana
Alexander Moreland
Lexiana Roop
Sophia Scalzitti
Jordyn Triplett
Abigail Velasco

Reminder

It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to call and let the school office know why a child is not in school.

Make sure you call 650-5305 then press 2 before 9 a.m. if your child will not be in school.

PTO News

We have temporarily suspended all social activities and meetings during this time. However, there are still ways to help support our PTO!

Box Tops/Coca-Cola Codes

Our spring box top submission has been mailed in. Because most items are now participating in the digital program, we only sent box tops totaling \$4.80. This will bring our total for the entire year to only about \$65. Just a few years ago, we were bringing in almost \$1000 from this program.

The only way for us to bring this number up is to download the app and scan EVERY receipt as soon as you can. You never know...those Paper Mate pens you picked up at Office Depot or the Lysol spray you bought at Menards (or maybe even the dollar store) might qualify! Remember, receipts must be scanned within 14 days of the purchase. Why not make it part of the routine as you unpack your purchases? You can even put your children in charge of reminding you! Do you only have a digital receipt because you order your groceries online? You can still help us! Directions on how to submit digital receipts with participating products can be found here:

<https://www.boxtops4education.com/emailgroceryreceipts>

Remember that we are continuing to collect codes from Coca-Cola products. Just send in the caps or the cardboard flap with the codes and we'll do the rest!

Rada Cutlery Fundraiser

Thanks to all who participated in our recent "Round Two" of the Rada Cutlery Fundraiser. Orders could be placed online (and sent directly to your home) or sent in to the school. We were excited to have sales totaling about \$1800 giving us a profit of about \$700!

Students who had at least one order credited to them received a small prize. One student really stepped up and had a total of about \$300 in orders! Claire Jania in Miss Kati's ECD class received a small prize package for her efforts!

If you ordered online, your order was delivered to your home. Physical

orders were delivered to the school. If you have not yet picked up your order, please stop by the school and the office will assist you.

Pop Tab Collection

To many, a pop tab is just a piece of aluminum with one purpose – to open a can. But to the Ronald McDonald House of Indiana, the pop tab is a valuable resource. Why? Collected pop tabs are recycled, generating much-needed funds to support the Ronald McDonald House and the nearly 1,500 families we serve each year.

How can you help? John Wood School is now collecting pop tabs for Ronald McDonald House. Simply remove the pop tab from the aluminum can and put them in your favorite collection container. When you are ready to send them to school, just put them in a Ziploc-type bag and send them with your child. There's no competition, no goal, no prizes...just the gift of compassion.

Curt Hoffman Scholarship

A \$500 scholarship will be awarded to a graduating senior from MHS who also attended John Wood Elementary School for a minimum of three years. Students who were in the Elementary Honors Program are eligible provided they lived in the John Wood School district during those years.

New this year, all applications will be in Google Forms. Letters of recommendation must also be submitted digitally. All info is available in Google Classroom. The link for the Curt Hoffman Scholarship is:

<https://forms.gle/s4yh2XUFDodzFugU8>
The completed form and letters must be submitted no later than May 3, 2021.

The winner of the scholarship should plan to give a short address to our fourth graders in June, if possible. The winner will not be expected to come if his/her final exams cannot be changed. Mrs. Petralia will make arrangements with the winner for this event.

This scholarship was created in memory of Mr. Curt Hoffman. Mr. Hoffman was principal of John Wood School from 1989-1998, when he lost his battle with cancer.

Upcoming Events

Every Tuesday and Thursday
Curbside Library for Virtual Students
2:00-3:15 p.m.

Every Thursday
Buddy Blue Day
Wear blue to remind you to be a buddy!

Every Thursday
Early Dismissal
1:15 p.m.
Students will be dismissed early on this day so teachers can attend Professional Development. Please plan for your in-person child to be home approximately one hour earlier on this day.

Every Friday
Pirate Pride Day
Wear purple or spirit wear to show your Pirate Pride!

March 10-16
IREAD Testing Window
Third-graders will be taking the IREAD test during this time period. We would like to remind you that attendance is important on these days. One of the best things you can do to prepare your child for this test is to make sure they get a good night's sleep and eat a nourishing breakfast.

March 22-26
Disability Awareness Spirit Week
See the section on page 1 for the list of Spirit Days. The list is also on the March Activity Calendar that went home with students and was emailed through Skyward.

March 30-April 3
Spring Break
No school for all students. Have a restful break! School resumes on Monday, April 5th

April 7
Picture Retakes
Photographers will be at John Wood this morning. The only students who will have their picture taken will be students who were not here on the original picture day, virtual students, and students who are having retakes. If you are having retakes, the original complete package must be returned.

April 14
Major Saver Fulfillment Begins
Today is the first day that a rep will be at the school to begin filling orders. Do not send orders to school before this day. Remember that payment must be included before a card will be sent home. See the article on page 4 for more details.

April 20
Major Saver Ends
Today is the last day the rep will be in our building to fill orders for Major Saver cards.

April 5
Kindergarten Preregistration
See the article on page 5.

Small Card, BIG Results

Merrillville Education Foundation Major Saver Campaign

The Merrillville Education Foundation is excited to be offering Major Saver cards for sale through the Merrillville schools. Students will receive the sales packets starting **Thursday, April 8, 2021**. The sale will last approximately two weeks. Proceeds from the sale of Major Saver cards directly support all the schools and the activities of the Merrillville Education Foundation. **All the money generated from this fundraiser goes back to the children.** In this way, **Wood School** can fund innovative and creative projects in the classroom and school and allow students to have broad educational experiences.

From 2002-2020 since the Merrillville Education Foundation started, Wood School has been awarded \$42,527.60 in teacher grants and Major Saver fundraising.

Major Saver cards can be purchased via cash, check or online at www.majorsaver.com. The online sale can be credited back to a particular student and school. All cards purchased online will be **mailed** directly to the customer. Administrators, Teachers, and MCSC Employees can also purchase cards to support this initiative.

The Major Saver App is now LOADED with THOUSANDS of offers valid NATIONWIDE!! Your Major Saver card will come with a code so you can download and access these deals. You're no longer limited to just savings in the Merrillville area. Going to Chicago or Indianapolis for the weekend? Open your app and take advantage of savings there too!!

Major Saver is making online sales easier for friends and family! On our homepage you are able to enter your student's information to create a CUSTOM LINK for your child that

can be shared via social media or email. This link will automatically credit the online sale to your student when friends and family use the link to make their purchase!

Major Saver stresses safe selling and discourages door to door campaigning. The company encourages students to sell to family members, church patrons, neighbors, or other adults the family may know; and to always make sure their parents are involved.

Please consider purchasing one or more Major Saver cards this year to help benefit the Merrillville Education Foundation and the students within the district.

Thank you for your continued support! Be ready for the Major Saver 2021 card coming soon!

Coaches' Corner

Ms. Fish, Mrs. Rassbach,
Miss Zorich

Reading:

Comprehension Strategies

What parents can do to help at home

- Hold a conversation and discuss what your child has read. Ask your child probing questions about the book and connect the events to his or her own life. For example, say "I wonder why that girl did that?" or "How do you think he felt? Why?" and "So, what lesson can we learn here?"
- Help your child make connections between what he or she reads and similar experiences he has felt, saw in a movie, or read in another book.
- Help your child monitor his or her understanding. Teach her to continually ask herself whether she understands what she's reading.
- Help your child go back to the text to support his or her answers.
- Discuss the meanings of unknown words, both those he reads and those he hears.

- Read material in short sections, making sure your child understands each step of the way.
- Discuss what your child has learned from reading informational text such as a science or social studies book.

Math:

Helpful Tips for Parents and Guardians

Believe that every child can be successful in math. It takes good teaching, coaching, encouragement and practice.

- Talk about math in a positive way. A positive attitude about math is infectious.
- Encourage persistence. Some problems take time to solve.
- Encourage your child to experiment with different approaches to mathematics. There is often more than one way to solve a math problem.
- Encourage your child to talk about and show a math problem in a way that makes sense (i.e., draw a picture or use material like macaroni).
- When your child is solving math problems ask questions such as: Why did you...? What can you do next? Do you see any patterns? Does the answer make sense? How do you know? This helps to encourage thinking about mathematics.
- Connect math to everyday life and help your child understand how math influences them (i.e. shapes of traffic signs, walking distance to school, telling time).
- Play family math games together that add excitement such as checkers, Junior Monopoly, math bingo and Uno.
- Computers + math = fun! There are great computer math games available on the internet that you can discover with your child.
- Talk with your child's teacher about difficulties he/she may be experiencing. When teachers and parents work together, children benefit.

Social Media

Did you know that there are several ways that you can keep updated about what is going on in our school and in the corporation? In addition to Class Dojo, Seesaw, Skyward, emails, phone calls and paper notes that go home with students, there are social media sites.

Twitter

MCSC Superintendent

Mr. Nick Brown

@MerrillvilleSu3

John Wood Principal

Mrs. Alison Petralia

@PrinPetralia

Facebook

Merrillville Community School Corporation

www.facebook.com/merrillvilleschools/

John Wood PTO

www.facebook.com/johnwood.pto

In addition, MCSC has a mobile app!
It is available in both the Apple and Google Play stores.

John Wood School **BEST** Pledge

John Wood is the **BEST** of schools,
Spell out **BEST** you'll know the rules,
First is **B**, that's the way.
Be responsible every day.
Next is **E**, that's correct.
Everyone deserves respect.
Third is **S**. This is cool.
Safety counts when you're at school.
Finally, it's letter **T**.
We will **T**alk appropriately.



Merrillville Schools Kindergarten Preregistration

Your child must
be age 5
by Aug. 1, 2021

Visit www.mvsc.k12.in.us starting April 5

- Enter the requested information.
- Check out the video!
- Learn next steps to complete the registration process.



For more information, call the
Merrillville Community School Corporation, 219-650-5300.

KINDERGARTEN